

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-03

SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /174 W

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R 021739Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7317

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 5884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, PO

SUBJECT: THE EC NINE AND PORTUGAL

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 5608

B) STATE 167044

1. MISSION OFFICER CALLED ON OFFICIAL IN THE EC COMMISSION'S
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WHO IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS TO DISCUSS WHAT STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN

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TO FOLLOW UP THE SUGGESTION MADE BY BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

VAN ELSLANDE ON JULY 22 REGARDING THE EC AND PORTUGAL. HE SAID THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY, AND HAS BEEN REEXAMINED SINCE VAN ELSLANDE'S SUGGESTION, BOTH WITHIN THE COMMISSION AND BY THE APPROPRIATE EXPERTS' GROUP IN THE POLITICAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK. THOSE DISCUSSIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON STEPS WHICH MEMBER STATES IN COORDINATION WITH ONE ANOTHER AND/OR THE COMMUNITY COULD TAKE TO PROMOTE STABILITY IN PORTUGAL.

2. UNDER COORDINATED BILATERAL MEASURES BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES AND PORTUGAL, THE LIST BOILED DOWN TO BILATERAL AID. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, HE SAID THIS SIMPLY MEANS MONEY; THERE IS AGREEMENT THAT PORTUGAL WILL SOON NEED AID IF ECONOMIC CHAOS IS TO BE AVOIDED. A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE COMMUNITY MEASURES HAVE ALSO BEEN CONSIDERED - IN THE SHORT-TERM, TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS; FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM, AN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT; AND FOR THE LONG-TERM, A REINFORCED ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT OR EVEN THE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, NO ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED ON ANY OF THESE STEPS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, UNTIL THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL BECOMES STABILIZED AND/OR THE PORTUGUESE INDICATE TO THE EC THEIR DESIRES FOR SPECIFIC STEPS.

3. THE COMMISSION OFFICIAL REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EC/US CONSULTATIONS REGARDING PORTUGAL AND ASKED WHETHER THE US WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH THE FACT THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS MIGHT BE RELATIVELY UN-STRUCTURED AND MIGHT NOT FALL INTO ANY PRE-DEFINED INSTITUTION. USING THE GUIDANCE IN REFTTEL B, MISSION OFFICER RESPONDED THAT THE US WAS PREPARED TO BE VERY FLEXIBLE REGARDING THE CHANNELS FOR ANY SUCH CONSULTATIONS AND EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY OF PROCEEDING VERY CAREFULLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, TRADE CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU05884
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740211-0947
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740880/aaaacqig.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) EC BRUSSELS 5608
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE EC NINE AND PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, PO, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005